

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

DATE PREPARED 7 May 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. At 8:45 a.m. on 1 April 1952, [REDACTED] two swept-back jet fighters at the northeastern edge of the Koethen airfield, and four other such fighters besides a radio truck with two rod antennas at the take-off point. Between 3 and 5:20 p.m. on 3 April, a total of 23 MiG-15's in addition to one Li-2 were observed in front of three hangars of the installation. Four more swept-back jet fighters and three Yak-11s were seen at the northern edge of the field. There was much flying. Landings were observed at:

3:28 p.m.	3:43 p.m.	3:56 p.m.	4:19 p.m.	4:46 p.m.
3:32 "	3:46 "	4:10 "	4:29 "	4:56 "
3:34 "	3:52 "	4:13 "	4:30 "	5:01 "
3:36 "	3:54 "	4:17 "	4:37 "	5:02 "
			4:41 "	5:05 "

Take-offs were observed at:

3:23 p.m.	3:54 p.m.	4:24 p.m.	4:39 p.m.	4:51 p.m.
3:30 "	4:06 "	4:25 "	4:48 "	4:58 "
3:38 "	4:15 "	4:32 "		

2. At 8:50 a.m. on 3 April, 10 swept-back jet fighters were observed in front of the hangars at the northeastern edge, and 4 alert swept-back jet fighters and a radio truck fitted with two rod antennas were observed at the take-off point. A radio installation was seen near the Koethen-Halle railroad line. Between 2:30 and 7 p.m., there was flying by individual jet fighters. After 7 p.m. jet fighters took off and flew in groups of two.

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3. Between 3:40 and 4:10 p.m. on 14 April, there was flying by about 24 swept-back jet fighters. Planes took off at 3:20, 3:28, 3:36 and 3:38 p.m. and landed at 3:42, 4, and 4:02 p.m. Railroad cars standing near the Meafitt plant were loaded with 10 boxes. On 15 April, these railroad cars and the 10 boxes were seen near the loading ramp. *

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4. Between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. on 16 April, 30 to 35 MIG-15s were observed in the northeastern corner of the field. No details could be observed because of the board fence. There was flying by MIG-15s which took off in groups of two. The weather was clear and visibility good. A radio installation with one mast was seen in the eastern extension of the runway. **

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Comment. Koothen airfield is occupied by a newly organized fighter regiment and an unidentified unit also equipped with MIG-15s. During the period from 19 January through 22 March 1952, a total of 118 new and crated MIG-15s were shipped to the ground organizations of these two units. Although it is believed that most of these aircraft were redistributed among other air units, the two units at the field were probably also provided with new aircraft. It is therefore assumed that more than 30 to 35 MIG-15s are stationed at the field.

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